

Clean Water Lakewood Joint Task Force Report



Photo Credit: Aerial Agents

Date: November 15, 2018
Privileged and Confidential



Clean Water Lakewood

- Clean Water Lakewood aims to better manage the City's combined sewer overflows and protect its natural resources to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act.
- USEPA and Ohio EPA will require that Lakewood treat or mitigate millions of gallons of combined sewer overflow every year to protect Rocky River and Lake Erie.
- The City must invest in public infrastructure and find ways to help its residents and businesses fix private infrastructure that is contributing to the problem.

Community Outreach Goals

- To increase community awareness of the City's efforts to address regulatory, environmental and financial challenges related to combined sewer overflows.
- To advocate on behalf of residents and businesses to prioritize a solution that is the most affordable and least disruptive to the community.
- To provide a way for the community to engage and share in the City's concerns for affordability, public health and environment.



Clean Water Lakewood - Joint Task Force

- Lakewood hosted two joint task force workshops on Oct 23 and Nov 15 to raise awareness and foster discussion about the issue and options for addressing it with some of Lakewood's residents.
- Attendees at these workshops were invited based on their participation in other city task forces and commissions.
 - Clean Water Lakewood Task Force
 - Lakewood Resiliency Task Force
 - Lakewood Planning Commission
 - Lakewood City Staff and Consultants

Joint Task Force Workshops

- October 23

Participants were provided with presentations to provide background and establish a working knowledge of the issue.

- November 15

Participants were guided through four activities to provide input on the following topics:

- Prioritization of outfalls
- Integration and disruption trade-offs
- Private property concerns
- Affordability



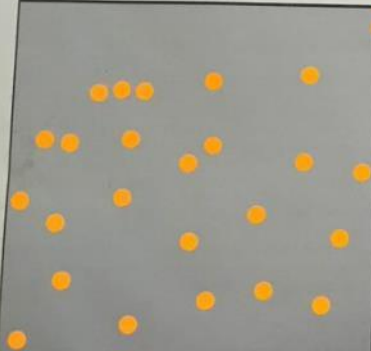
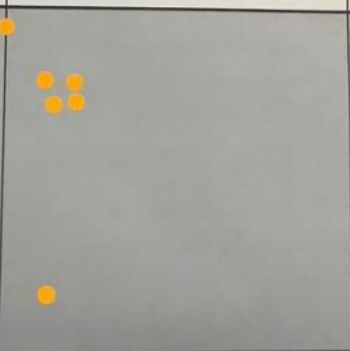
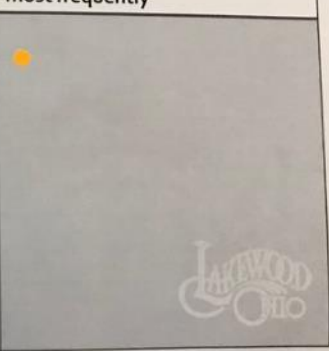
Activity 1.

Prioritizing Outfall Projects

Prioritizing Outfalls

ROUND 1: Prioritize Outfalls

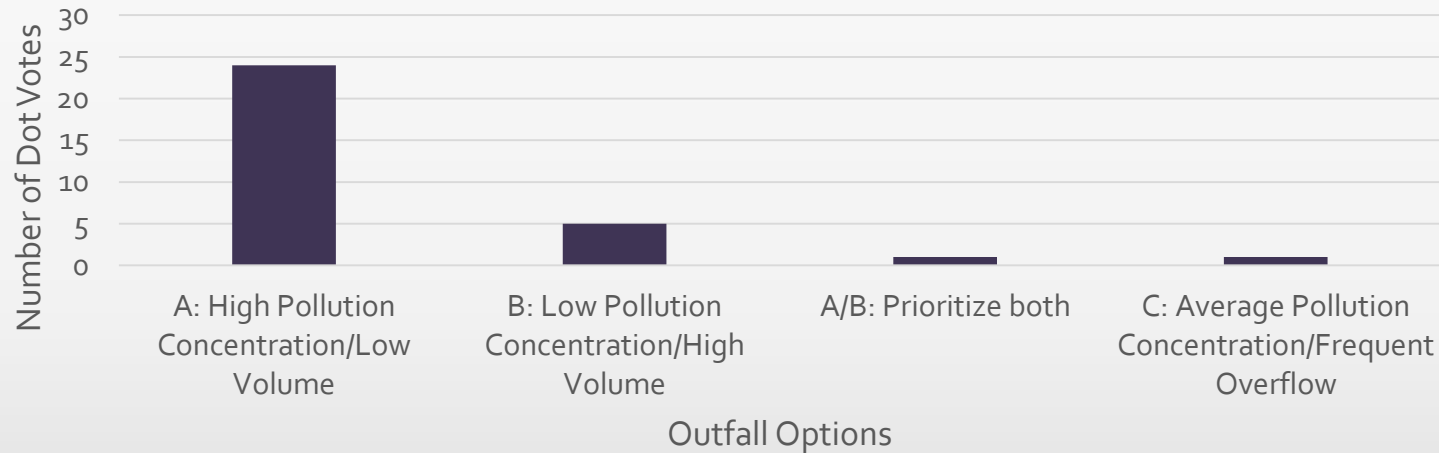
Given that we can't do every project at the same time, we should prioritize work on outfalls like: (place your dot under your choice)

Outfall A: High concentration of pollutants, but minimal overflow volume	Outfall B: Low concentration of pollutants, but high overflow volume	Outfall C: Average concentration of pollutants, but overflows the most frequently
		

Lakewood
Ohio

Prioritizing Outfalls: Results

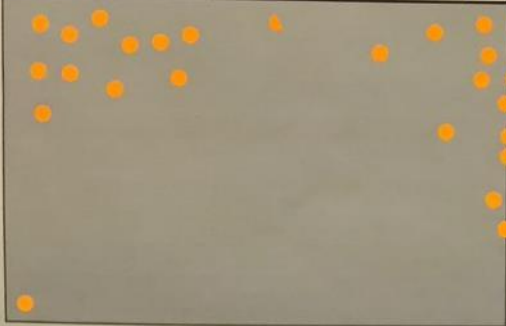
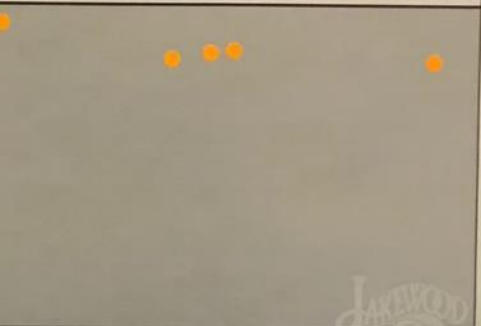
Given that we can't do every project at the same time, we should prioritize work on outfalls with...




Prioritizing Outfalls

ROUND 1: Prioritize Outfalls

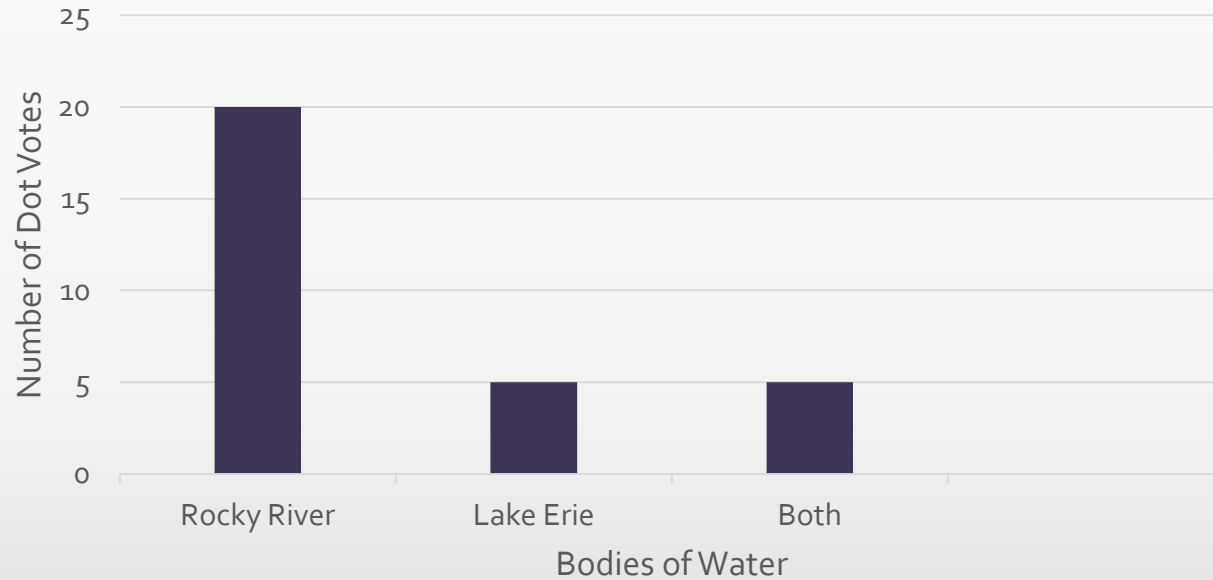
We should prioritize reducing pollution flowing to:
(place your dot under your choice)

Rocky River	Lake Erie
	



Prioritizing Outfalls: Results

We should prioritize reducing pollution flowing to...



Prioritizing Outfalls: Requests for Additional Information

- Need more information on which options best protect the lake, cost and who will bear the burden?
- What is the volume flowing into the river vs. the lake today?
- Who has jurisdiction over the flow into Rocky River? Are there other stakeholders?
- Which outfall (river or lake) has the more significant impact on public health?
- How much pollution is upstream of Lakewood's river outflow location?
- What is the economic impact to the river vs. the lake?
- Are environmental ("green") solutions being explored? Are there vegetation solutions that can help manage volume?

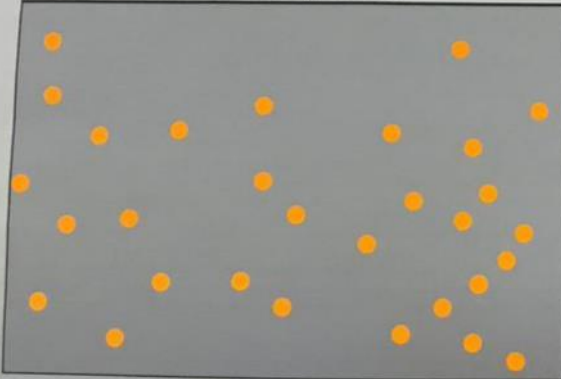
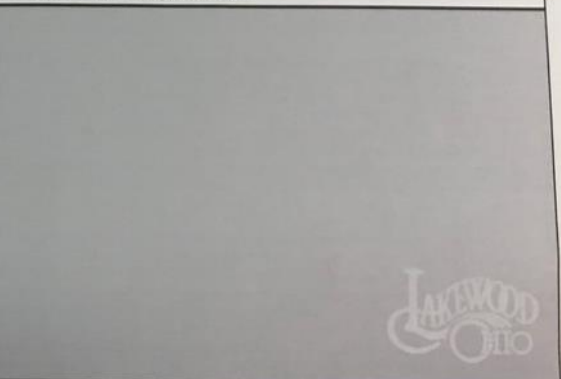
Activity 2.

Integration and Disruption Trade-offs

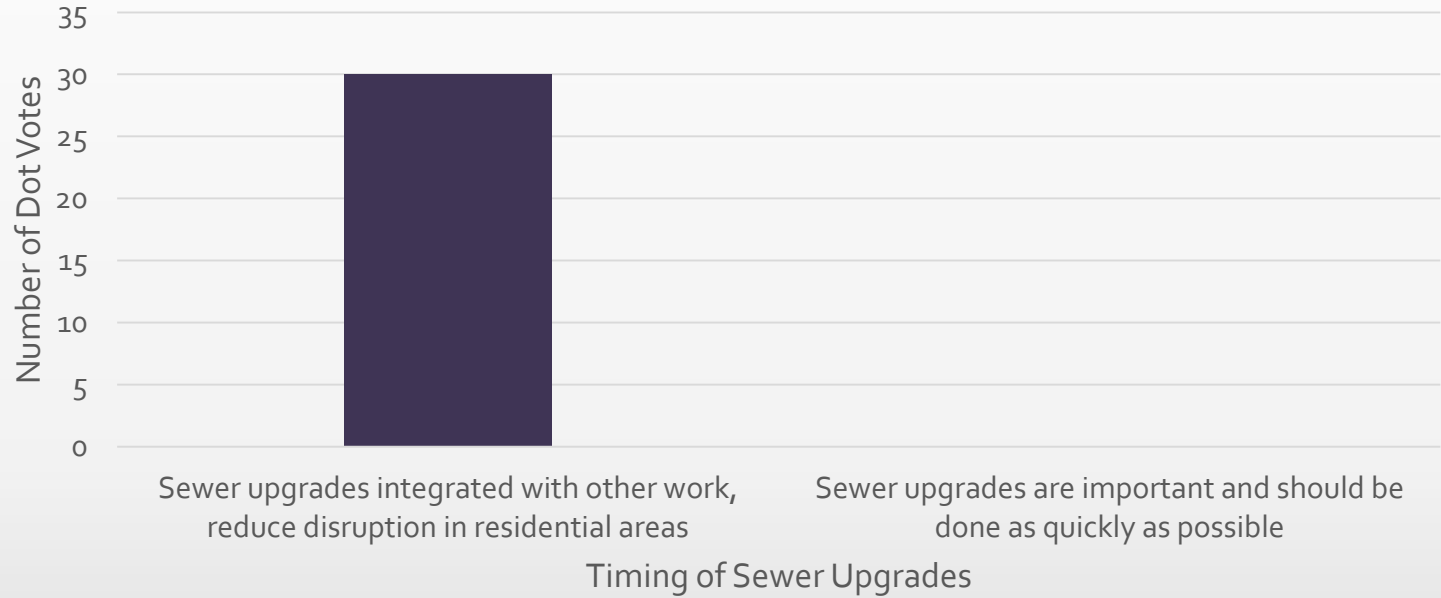
Integration and Disruption

ROUND 2: Integration and Disruption

Place your dot under your choice

<p>Sewer upgrades should be integrated with other work, which makes improvements slower, but might reduce disruption in residential areas—like my street.</p>	<p>Sewer upgrades are so important that they should be done as quickly as possible, which might mean more disruption in residential areas—like my street.</p>
 <p>A grid of orange dots representing survey responses for the first option. There are approximately 25 dots scattered across the grid.</p>	 <p>A grid for survey responses for the second option, currently empty. The Lakewood Ohio logo is visible in the bottom right corner of this grid.</p>

Integration and Disruption



Integration and Disruption

Participant Ideas for Work to Integrate with Sewer Projects

- Traffic calming measures
- Technology upgrades
- Implement a full street plan as part of doing these upgrades (bike lanes, green infrastructure, traffic improvements, paving, etc.)
- Add medians and landscaping as part of each project
- Use the opportunity to bury utility power lines and lay conduit/water lines, gas lines for future infrastructure
- Add sanitary stations for dog waste
- Add fiber optic cable
- Tree pits
- Improve bike and pedestrian lanes, sidewalks and infrastructure
- Introduce pervious materials/permeable surfaces
- Add bioswales
- Add park space on larger sites
- Don't remove trees unnecessarily
- Use federal dollars to assist businesses impacted by construction
- Implement minimum required by EPA to address issue.

Activity 3.

Private Property Concerns

Private Property Concerns

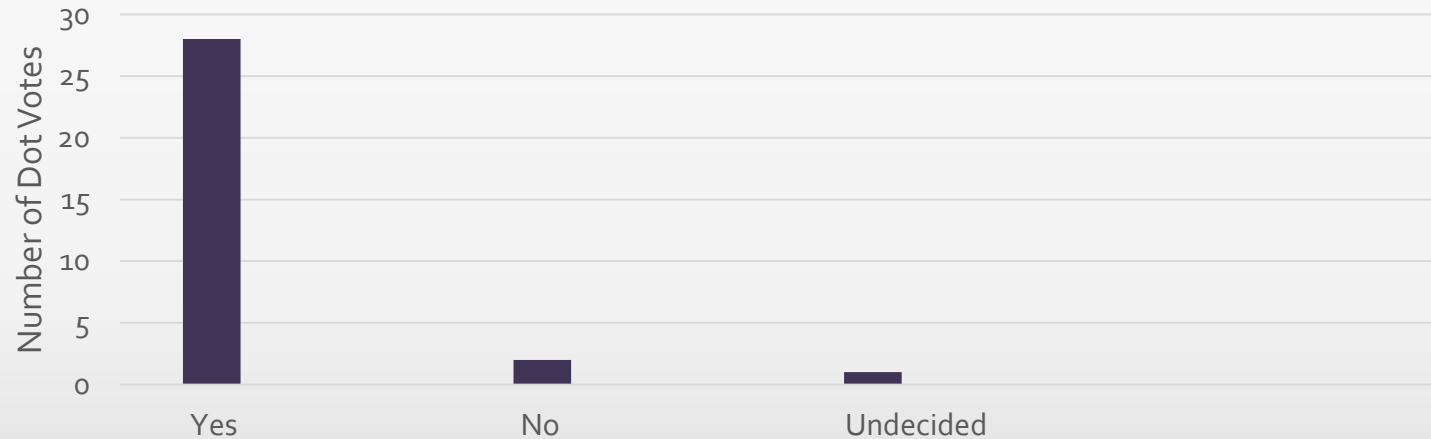
ROUND 3: Private Property Concerns

If you knew that controlling stormwater and sewer on your property was highly effective, would lead to compliance and reduce combined sewer overflows, would you make improvements on your property?



Private Property Concerns: Results

If you knew that controlling sewer and stormwater on your property, was highly effective, would lead to compliance and reduce sewer overflows, would you make improvements on your property?



Private Property Concerns

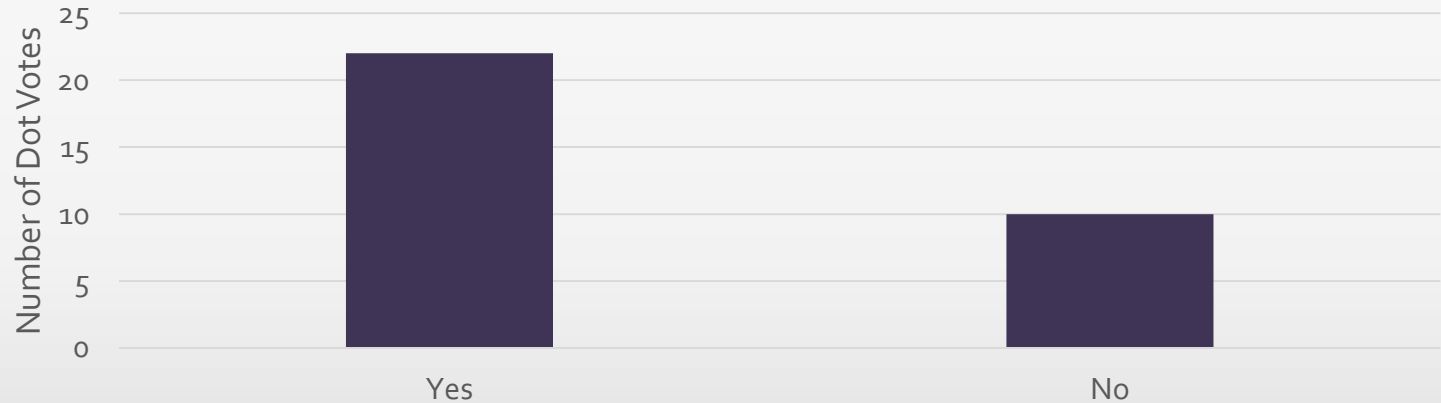
ROUND 3: Private Property Concerns

Would you support a "Time of Property Sale" requirement to inspect and mitigate source water (stormwater and sewer) on private properties?

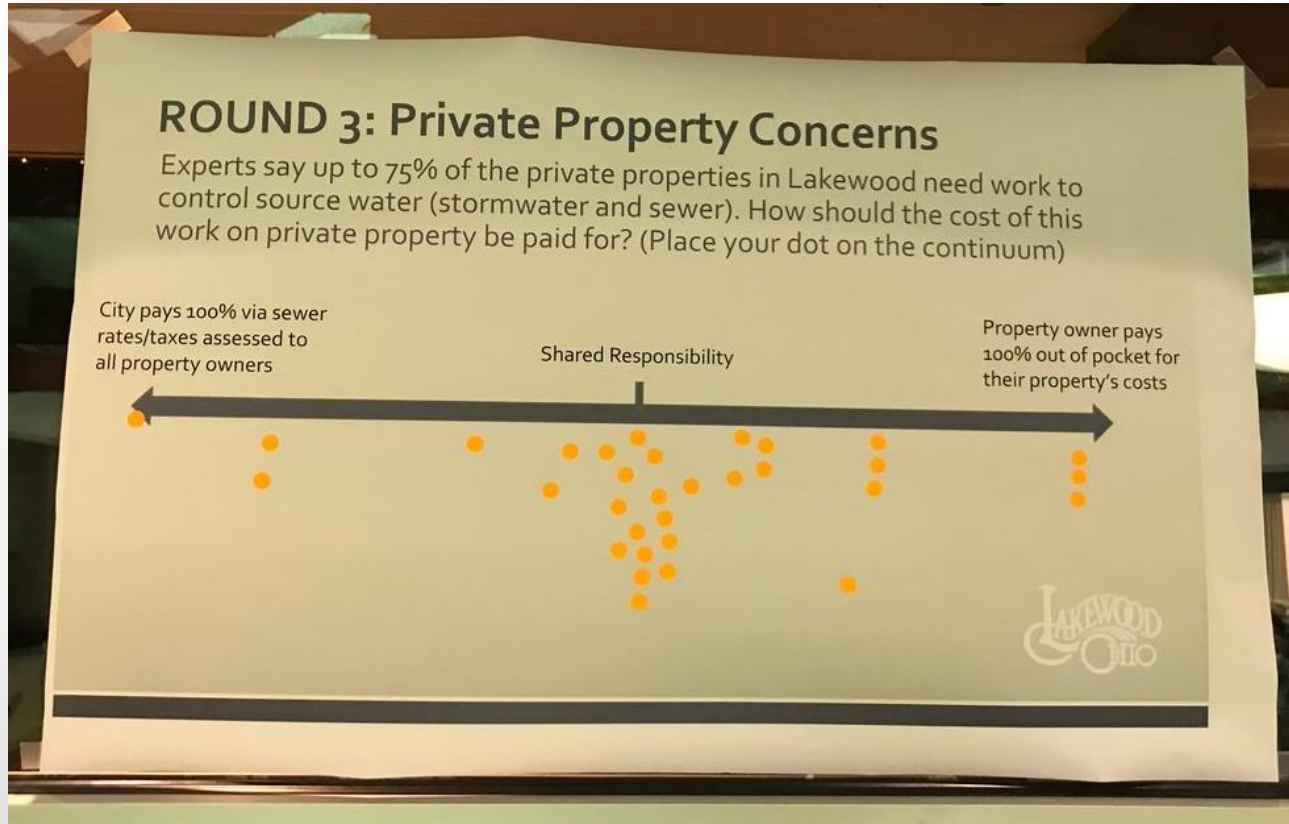


Private Property Concerns: Results

Would you support a “Time of Property Sale” requirement to inspect and mitigate source water (stormwater and sewer) on private properties?



Private Property Concerns



Private Property Concerns: Results

Experts say that up to 75% of private properties in Lakewood need work to control source water (stormwater and sewer). How should the cost of this work on private property be paid for?



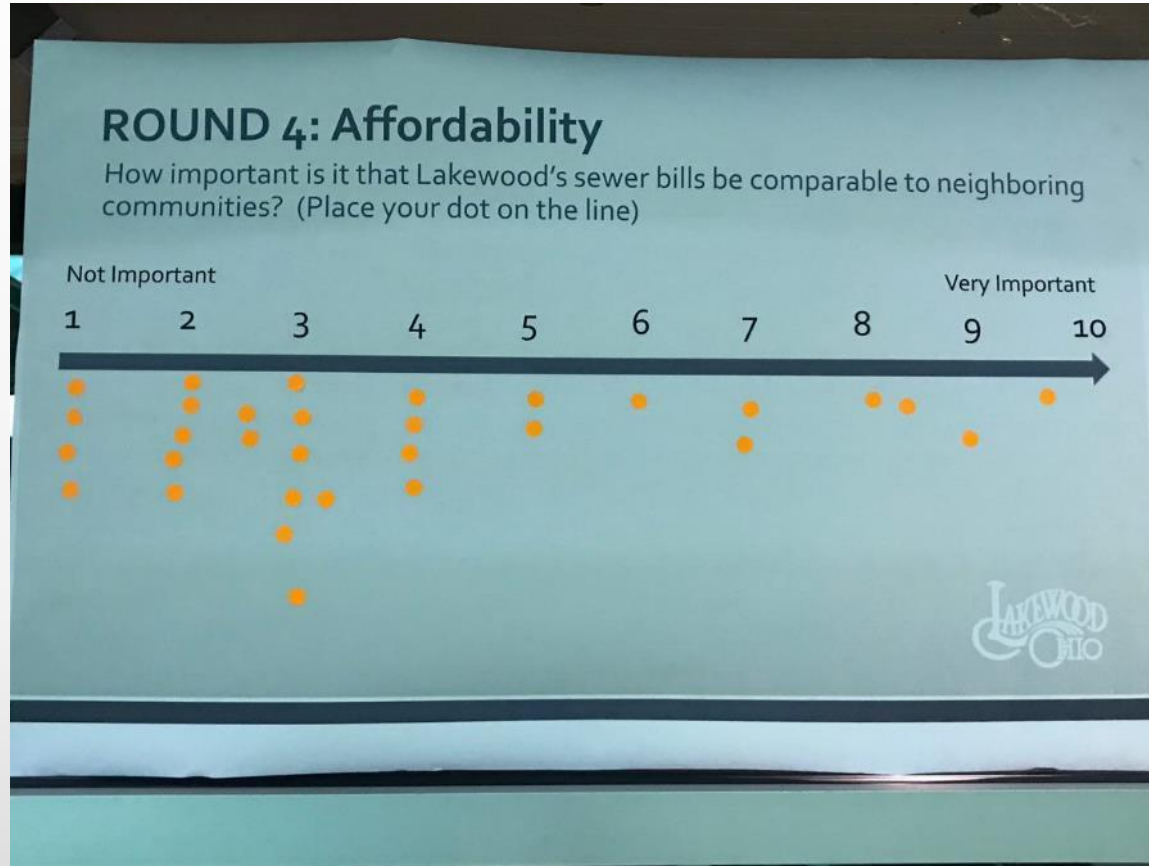
Private Property Concerns: Additional Suggestions

- Do public work first
- Create an escrow account with the Water Department to start to pre-pay for costs so that the account stays with the property
- The 10K cost for upgrades on my property adds zero equity to my home so why should I do it?
- Why weren't rain barrels considered as an option in the evaluation of the issue?
- Have realtors/owners/sellers determine responsibility
- Attach projects to property tax to keep payments with the parcel
- Use municipal bonds to offer low interest loans for homeowners then use special association tax
- This country prioritizes profits, need to socialize losses – we all need to pay for this
- Could the county sell bonds to pay for this?
- Sharing costs with everyone punishes homeowners who have already made improvements
- Figure out how to help people who can't afford it
- The sale will artificially deflate home values in neighborhoods where this is a problem
- Incentives for getting it done – reduced water bills?
- Provide a list of approved contractors to make it easy
- What are the priorities of the private property owner?
- Is there federal/state assistance for this?

Activity 4.

Affordability

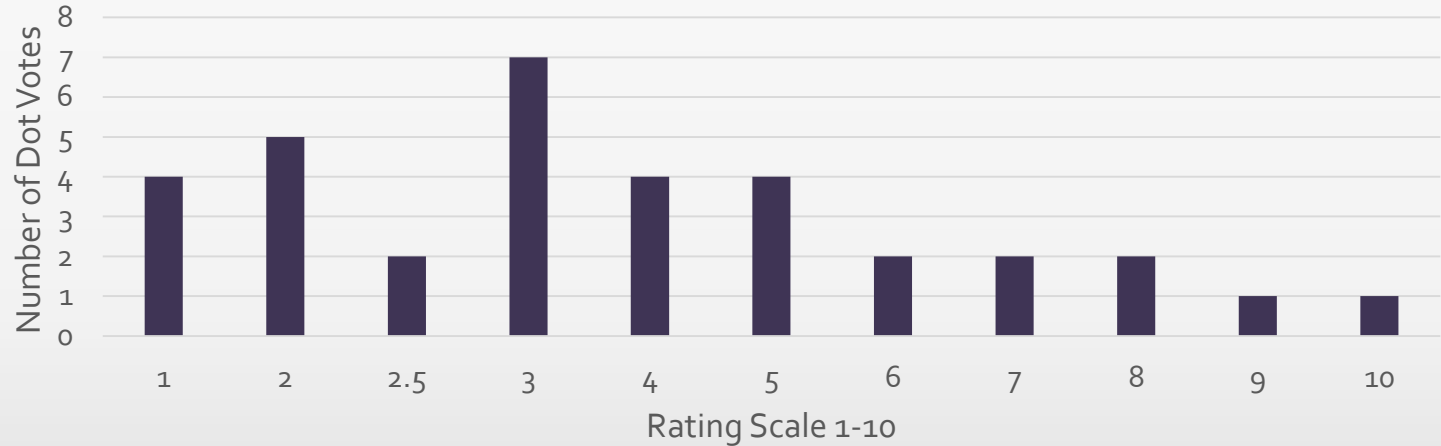
Affordability



Affordability: Results

How important is it that Lakewood's sewer bills be comparable to neighboring communities?

1=Not Important; 10=Very Important



Affordability

ROUND 4: Affordability

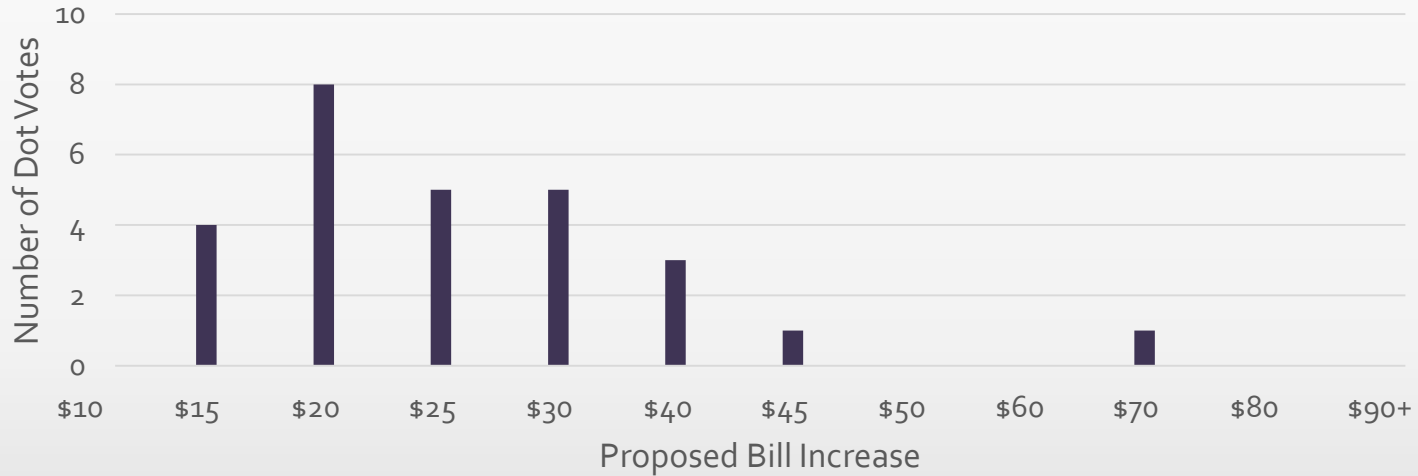
To resolve this issue, Lakewood must invest significant funding into projects and sewer rates will increase. Given what you know about this problem, what is a reasonable amount for the average monthly residential sewer bill to increase? (Place your dot on the line)

\$10 \$20 \$30 \$40 \$50 \$60 \$70 \$80 \$90+



Affordability: Results

Given what you know about this problem, what is a reasonable amount for the average monthly residential sewer bill to increase?



Affordability: Additional Suggestions

- Mandate commercial property source control over 10 years then do residential at point of sale
- Sewer rate increases are regressive. Figure out how to tie to income.
- When buying a house, no one considers how sewer rates compare across communities.
- Communication is key! Show people the info from the round 4 charts so they can put the increase in context
- Rates will need to be a factor of income
- We need a stormwater fee
- Could there be any incentives for lowering rates – impervious area, trees, rain barrels, etc.
- Gradual increase over time will go over better
- Do rates on graph of other cities include NEORS D for impervious surface area
- Special tax assessment to each property owner for their actual cost to eliminate. I and I and cross connections
- We have to clearly demonstrate what one is getting for the increased bill. Lakewood's W/S bills are high but that's because they are upgrading their 100 year old system.
- Any benefits we can advertise to make the increase in rates more acceptable?

Key Themes



Prioritize high pollutant concentration areas and protect Rocky River.



Integrate sewer upgrades with other planned work and incorporate additional amenities (traffic calming measures, landscaping upgrades, burying utility lines).



Prefer shared responsibility between the City and private property owners for addressing combined sewer overflows.



Would expect between a \$10-\$40 increase on monthly residential bills to address this sewer overflow issue.

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